

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.266

March 1988

## NEXT MEETING - General Servicing & Repair of Amateur Equipment.

The age of the silicon chip has brought into our homes technology that we never thought possible a few years ago, Video Recorders, Compact Disc Players, Cordless Telephones, etc, etc. Similarly the face of amateur radio has changed with the ubiquitous black box now containing customised IC's, ROM's, RAM's and sealed P.A. Modules.

All these marvellous things are fine while they are working BUT when they go wrong it is a very different story! No longer is it possible to wave a soldering iron around in the box, disconnecting things in vein hope of finding the fault. With the high density of circuitry in and around IC's a more logical approach is now required to determine 'cause' and 'effect' of the problem. Essential aids are detailed diagrams with precise voltage charts, direct substitution components and above all the professional help of the service department of the supplier.

This month we welcome Bob Boddy, G6AKL, of Arrow Electronics Ltd., to explain some of the arts in the successful repair of amateur radio equipment. The meeting begins at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st March, at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 27 Feb. OPEN DAY at Arrow Electronics Ltd., Hatfield Peveral.
- 1 Mar. CLUB MEETING - General Servicing & Repair of Amateur Equipment, G6AKL.
- 5 Apr. CLUB MEETING - 2MT Writtle, The Birth of British Broadcasting, G6GUX.
- 3 May CLUB MEETING - Visit to Chelmsford Police Headquarters.
- 7 June CLUB MEETING - Constructors' Competition.

Please note, THERE IS NO MEETING AT THE COLLEGE IN MAY ALSO WE NEED THE NAMES AND DATE OF BIRTH OF THOSE MEMBERS ATTENDING POLICE HEADQUARTERS Book early, party restricted to 20 !

## LAST MONTHS MEETING - Brian G3CVI

It was to some extent a disappointment when it was reported that Braintree could not take part in the quiz. We had all been looking forward to an evening of fun and possibly victory, but since the folks of Braintree are friends, it was the fun we anticipated most.

From the moment Brian (G8DS) announced the teams A & B the atmosphere became charged with a sense, not of competition but rather of subdued hilarity. Nudgings and mutterings could be heard from the audience as team A, Geoff (3EDM) and Dick (3WHR) took their places on the Question Master's right and B team, Jim (6ZC) and Gwyn (4FKH) placed themselves upon the left.

There were to be five rounds, or possibly six, if time permitted and battle commenced at about 7.50. Round 1, team questions consisting of five to each with ten in all, served to warm things up and it was quite clear that we were in for a close contest and that the laughs would come thick and fast. The person who "cooked up" the questions was nervous lest there should be any loop-holes or ambiguities still in the questions and he knew very well that the assembled "Brains" on the platform would pounce if such were the case ..... they pounced, albeit nicely ..... and some jovial discussion took place on the "floor of the house". However it all turned out well and the ensuing rounds proved how closely matched were the two teams. Never once did the score differ by more than two or three points. Occasionally we were entertained by the most uncanny (or should it be canny) Scottish wit of the captain of B team when he solved a slightly tricky one by returning to basic principles and pronouncing the correct answers just before the Question Master could have called time. To describe the moment is impossible, one just had to be there to appreciate the twinkle in his eye and the low mutterings of encouragement from his team-mate.

In all 60 questions were answered and to the delight of everyone the result was a tie ..... as it should be ..... so a tie breaker was required and a most useful interjection came from the audience. Harry (2HPF) put a question to be answered by any team member:- "There was a great deal of argument on the air, the other day, as to the bottom limit frequency on Top Band ..... What is it?" There followed great discussion and much erroneous guesswork (don't tell the D.T.I.) and eventually A Team called out "1810KHz" which the writer of the questions confirmed from his "crib-sheet" which he always carries in his box of library books. A team had won!!

The remaining pick-your-own questions from the fifteen originally available were put to the members and they were answered by what might be termed "general" consensus".

Votes of thanks were proposed to the members who had prepared and presented the quiz and we all went home having had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The Braintree chaps would kick themselves!!

## MEMBERS NEWS

The Society extends a welcome to Elaine Nutton, G7AHU, our first G7 member. Elaine is eventually hoping to get her late Grand Fathers call G6NU.

Congratulations to Elaine on her R.A.E. success and also to Alan Smith, Alan is aiming to go straight for a Class A Licence.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

The March Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 9th March. You are most welcome to join us.

## PLANNING AHEAD

This year being the 75th anniversary of the founding of the R.S.G.B. we are promised a spectacular three day exhibition at the Birmingham NEC on 15th - 17th July.

From past experiences, the easiest way to travel is by coach; the committee are willing to organise the trip if we can estimate the number of interested parties. Remember, the more that join in the cheaper per head the fare becomes. Please give the committee a clear indication how many would like to go.

## CLUB NETS

These have not been well supported recently! Remember that for up-to-date information on the activities of the society between meetings, please join in the Tuesday club nets.

The 2 metre FM net begins at 7.45pm on 145.225MHz (or nearby if this channel is occupied) and the 10 metre net on 28.325MHz starting at 8.30pm.

Please check-in, if only to say that you are listening!

## ARE YOU A LOGICAL THINKER ?

Five club members have a sked once a week with their friends, each on different bands and on a different day of the week.

From the clues given and using the grid to plot your findings, try to work out who has his sked and when, on what band and what equipment he uses.

There is a prize for the first written correct answer handed to me at the next club meeting, the solution and answers will be in the April newsletter.

To use the grid, place a tick in a box where there is a definite 'yes' and a cross where there is a definite 'no'. I have started it off to give you the idea.

Best of luck, Andrew G4KQE.

## Clues

1. G4FKH went on 80m two days after the Hotpoint 2203 was used.
2. The Trio 1100 was operated on Top Band but not by G0BDS.
3. G3CVI was on the air on Tuesday but not on 2m.
4. The 6m sked is on Wednesday.
5. The spark transmitter was used by G3WHR the day after one of the Trio rigs was used.
6. The Trio 2A was in operation on Thursday, by which time the piece of wet string had already been used.

	80m	2m	20m	160m	6m	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Wet Str.	Trio 2A	Sprk Tx	Htpt 2203	Trio 1100
G0BDS	x														
G3PMX	x														
G4FKH	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x							x	
G3WHR	x														
G3CVI	x														
Wet String															
Trio 2A															
Spark Tx															
Hotpoint 2203															
Trio 1100															
Mon															
Tues															
Wed															
Thur															
Fri															

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

### WANTED

STORAGE SPACE - Dry, frost free, storage area required for amateur radio equipment and related items, e.g. books.

- When - July 1988 or earlier.
- Duration - approximately three years.
- Volume - approximately 144 cubic feet.
- Access - rarely if ever and only by appointment.
- Terms - negotiable by informal agreement but envisage one months notice either way with no necessity for insurance.
- Finance - negotiable but consistent with market rates.

Has anyone got a 'box room', etc, spare and who wishes to create an income from it? If so, please contact John Greenwood, G3KRZ - work 01 356 4406, home 01 588 2009.